

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0024] with the following amended paragraph:

[0024] Figure 4 illustrates the relationship of the target heart rate Q to the ratio M . By virtue of the clamping of heart rates below HR_{min} and above HR_{max} to the nearest limit value, the process will always operate within the range of M_{min} to M_{max} along the horizontal axis. Consequently, the target flow rate Q will be determined by ~~a function 410~~ any one of functions 410a, 410b, 410c, or 410d whose ~~value lies~~ values lie within the range between Q_{min} and Q_{max} . Any monotonic function can be employed to define the relationship between the target flow rate and the ratio M . As a default, a linear function might be employed, as depicted by the solid line 410a. However, if the doctor determines that a high flow rate is preferred, a non-linear function such as those depicted by the lines 410b or 410c might be selected. Conversely, if a relatively low flow rate is more desirable, e.g. the patent only requires assistance at high activity levels, a function such as that represented by line 410d can be selected.